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WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
MELANIE I. KOLEK, LEGAL COUNSEL
CONNECTICUT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

BEFORE THE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

REGARDING

RAISED BILL NO. 5400

My name is Melanie I. Kolek, Legal Counsel for the Connecticut Education Association (CEA). I am proposing several changes to Raised Bill Number 5400.

In Section 2, as to proposed changes to Section 10-222c, the Department of Children and Families either substantiates or unsubstantiates allegations of abuse or neglect; it does not find allegations "false." Thus, under subsection (a)(1)(C)(i) at Line 172, an addition should be made "that all allegations were false or unsubstantiated." The same change is also recommended under subsection (a)(2)(B)(i) at Line 190 and under subsection (e)(3) at Line 251.

As to subsection (h) at Line 285, the language should be amended to state that, "Any application who intentionally provides false information or knowingly fails . . ." This accounts for the possibility that an applicant may negligently omit information to be required under subdivision (1) of subsection (a).

As to subsection (o) at Line 348, the language should be amended to state that "if such person has been criminally convicted of a violation as set forth in section 10-145b(i)(2)." As proposed, the statutory reference to section 17a-101a refers to the chapter regarding mandated reporting requirements. This revision keeps with the assumed purpose of the revision, that an applicant who has been criminally convicted shall not be offered employment by any local or regional board of education.